

**FORM H - PARKS
AND LANDSCAPES**

Assessor's number USGS Quad Area(s) Form No. Forms within

38/117/1	Billerica		900	922-929
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village) Veterans Memorial Park

Address or Location between 230 & 250 North Rd

Ownership Public Private

Landscape (check one):

- farm land
- mine/quarry
- training field

common

card/parkway
(specify)

Period groundbreaking Sat., Sept. 15, 1990

Lowell Sun, Monday, Sept. 17, 1990, pg. 9

Architect

of Plans

is/Intrusions (with dates)

see monument inventories

Condition excellent

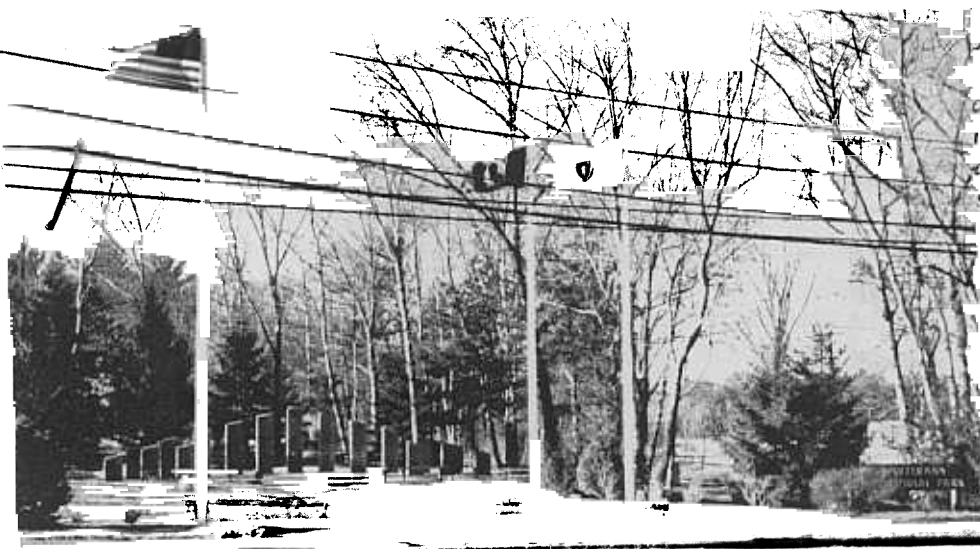
Acreage 38.26 acres

Setting lightly wooded, on very busy North Rd. Former police station on the south side, middle school on the north side beyond a small stream, which flows on the north side of the park. Across North Rd. is a condominium complex.

Recorded by Jane B. Drury

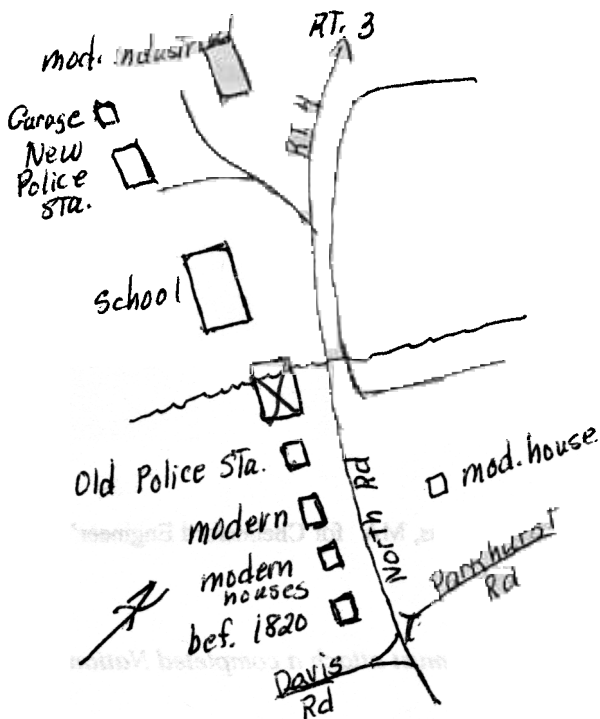
Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month/year) Nov. 2003



Sketch Map

Draw or duplicate a map of the landscape. Show its location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings or major features within the landscape. Indicate all buildings



PARKS AND LANDSCAPES FORM

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet*

Describe topography and layout. Note structures such as bandstands, gazebos, sheds, stone walls, monuments, and fountains. Note landscaping features such as formal plantings, agricultural plantings, and bodies of water. If possible, compare current appearance with original.

This area originally was wooded, with a small stream flowing on its right (north) side. It is still lightly wooded. The park is covers a small portion of a 38.26 acre lot. To the left (south) of the park but on the same lot is a building built as a police station in 1965. On the right (north) side of the park, still on the same property stands the McCarthy School, built in 1959 as the high school but is currently a middle school.

In addition to various monuments which are part of the park and have inventories included with this document, there are several other small structures. At North Rd. is a sign indicating the Veterans Memorial Park; it was made by Hubert Scoble. On the left side the Soldier and Boy monument, representing soldiers of all wars, stands overlooking North Rd. Three flagpoles flank the entrance to the park. One flagpole is that of the American Legion Post 312; a second is that of the Chelmsford Elks 2310; the third is that of the Chelmsford Emblem Club 541. A walkway leads back toward the "Wall" monuments, in front of which are two wooden benches. The land rises slightly to the left of the "Wall", and on this rise is a receptacle given in appreciation of Edward McGovern. Behind the wall a path meanders past a wooden bench, receptacles, two monuments, a donation box, and a "pad" on which are two more monuments. The path continues across the stream toward the direction of the school. On the other side of the stream is another monument near a raised and cleared area, where one or more monuments may eventually be placed. It was cleared as a garden as a Boy Scout project but is empty at this time.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Discuss history of use. Evaluate the historical associations of the landscape/park with the community.

The idea of a park commemorating those who had served in the country's armed forces was conceived of by assistant building inspector and Vietnam veteran Milton "Mike" Kinney several years before it actually came to fruition. "A street, a tree, a bridge, a plaque, and about a dozen boulders and monuments testify to the town's recognition of its debt to the past." However, it was felt there should be a central place to honor all veterans from Chelmsford. In 1988 Mr. Kinney, with three others, envisioned a gazebo for band concerts, walking trails, and a monument. Selectmen endorsed the concept of constructing a veterans' park with private funds. A committee was set up to select a location.

By Jan. 1989 the park committee and a bandstand committee hoped to combine forces and build a park with bandstand at the corner of Wilson and Chelmsford Streets, but that that did not work out. By May of the same year the Veterans' Park Committee had decided to place a smaller park in the parking lot of the Little League field on Chelmsford Street. Mico Kaufman of Tewksbury was selected as sculptor. Plans called for a bronze statue of a soldier holding a small child by the hand, standing in front of four bronze plaques, one for W.W. I, one for W.W. II, one for the Korean War, and one for the Vietnam War. A U.S. flag and an MIA flag stand one at each side of the memorial.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Sources:

Newsweekly: Nov. 30, 1988; May 25, 1989

Independent: June 8, 1989

Lowell Sun: May 16, 1989; Sept. 17, 1990

Milton Kinney

Aerial photograph: Apr. 14, 1976 by Col-East, Inc., P.O. Box 347, Harrison Airport, no. Adams, MA for Chelmsford Engineer's Office

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
CHELMSFORD VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Area(s) Form No.

	900
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HISTORY

However, difficulties and controversies continued to plague the Veterans' Park Committee and by a year later the committee decided to act alone and use only private funds. A wooded parcel on North Road was selected, and on a rainy day in Sept. 1990 about 60 people gathered at 9 A.M. for a ground breaking ceremony. "Chelmsford resident Elwell Weatherhead, a World War I veteran, turned the symbolic dirt, joined by three other veterans, one each representing W.W.I, W.W. II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War." Mike Kinney remarked that "Chelmsford's always been a patriotic town; I think it was just a matter of the community acknowledging a secured site." He had dreamed of such a memorial for over ten years. Mike Kendrick, another Vietnam veteran and member of the Veterans Park Committee stated that "I think it's a long time coming and something that all veterans need. It's just one step closer to coming home." Following the ceremony volunteers from the Civil Engineer squadron at Hanscom Air Force Base, the policemen's union, and the Merrimack Valley Veterans group cleared trees at the memorial site. On following weekends volunteer crews continued working to clear the one-half acre site. The planned memorial listed the names of Chelmsford residents, living and deceased, who served in the first and second world wars, Korea and Vietnam, emblazoned on granite pillars, ranging in size from five to nine feet.

Additional monuments have been added in later years and names of area veterans added, not just those from Chelmsford.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
CHELMSFORD VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Property Address

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	900
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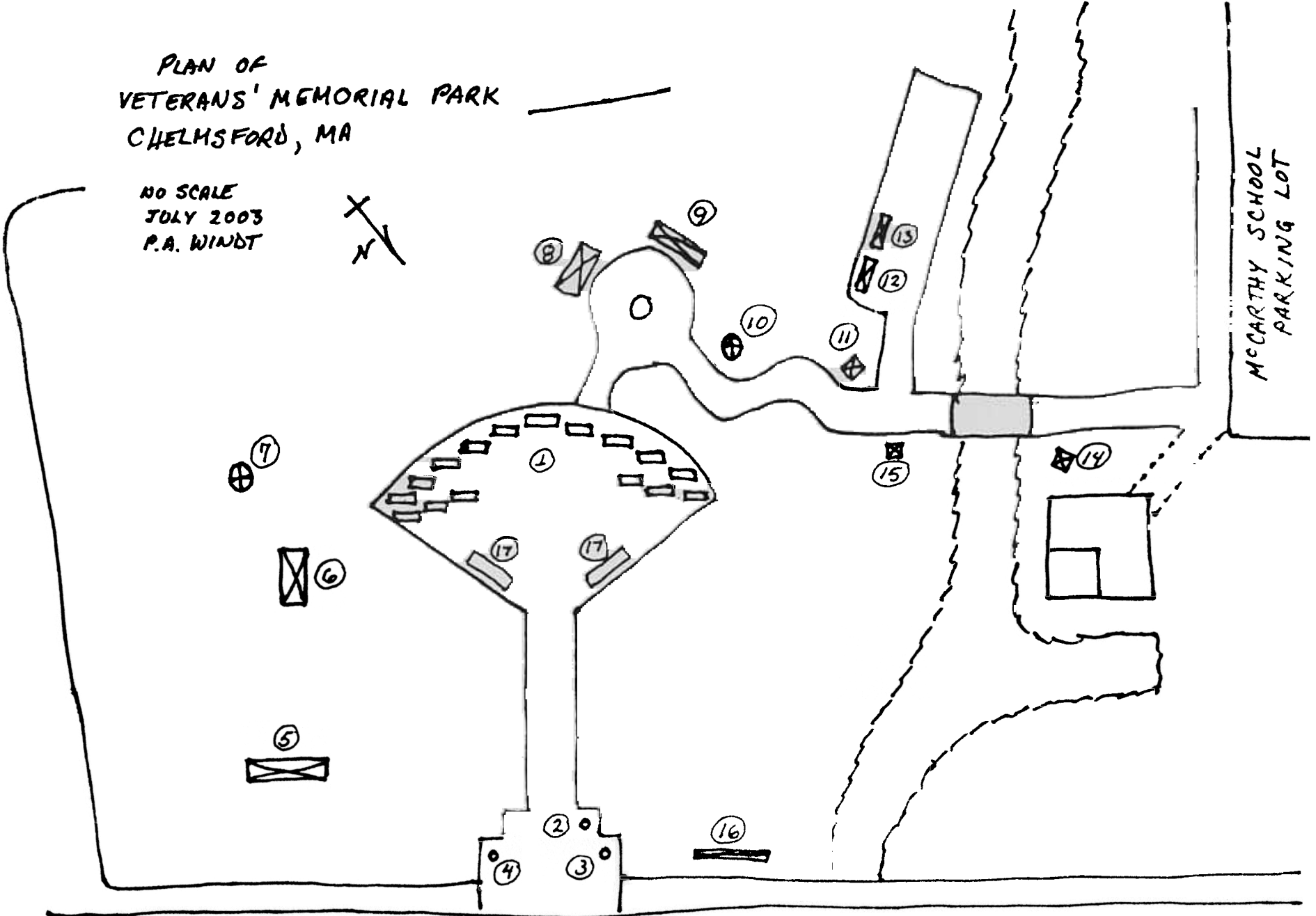
Feb. 1, 1990



CMFD-SITE OF Proposed Veterans Memorial Park. (Photo by Mark Cote)

PLAN OF
VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK
CHELMSFORD, MA

NO SCALE
JULY 2003
P.A. WINDT



MC CARTHY SCHOOL
PARKING LOT

NORTH ROAD

Key to Plan of Veterans' Memorial Park, Chelmsford, MA

Map Loc.	Description
1	"Wall" Stones
2	American Legion Post 312 Flagpole
3	Chelmsford Elks 2310 Flagpole
4	Chelmsford Emblem Club 541 Flagpole
5	Soldier and Child Stone
6	In Appreciation of Michael "Mike" Kinney, Jr Stone bench
7	In Memory of Edward McGovern Recepticle
8	Digital Equipment Corporation Wooden Bench
9	POW-MIA Stone
10	In Memory of Melvin Beckwith Recepticle
11	In Appreciation of Donors Stone
12	Operation Desert Storm Stone
13	Merrimack Valley Vietnam Veterans Stone
14	Bagni Bridge Stone
15	Donation Box
16	Veterans' Memorial Park Sign
17	Wooden Bench

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
BET. 230 & 250 NORTH RD.

Area(s) Form No.

	900
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January 2004

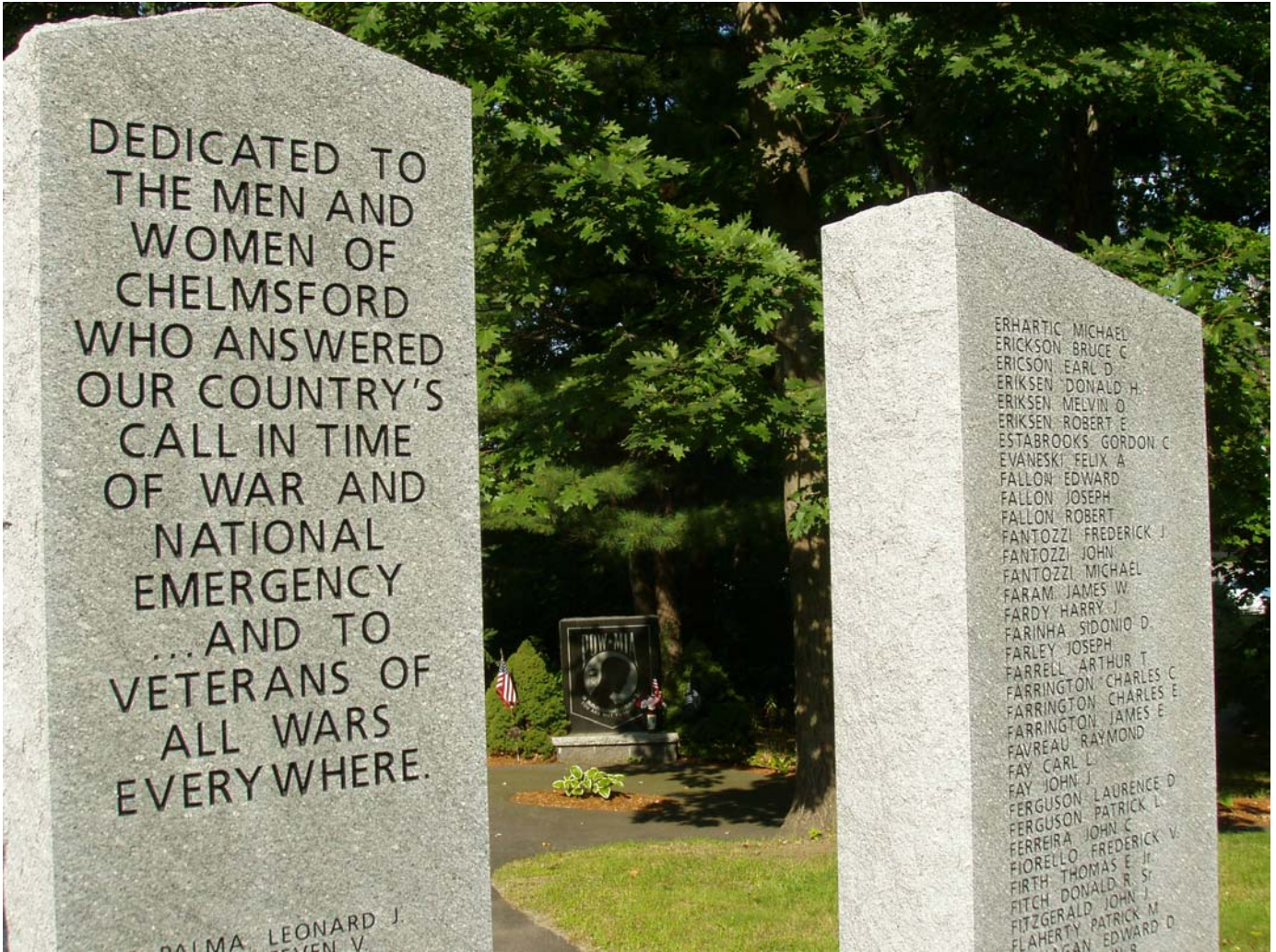


Right of picture on pg. 1



'Veterans Memorial Park' 230-250 North Road

9/4/2004 F Merriam



DEDICATED TO
 THE MEN AND
 WOMEN OF
 CHELMSFORD
 WHO ANSWERED
 OUR COUNTRY'S
 CALL IN TIME
 OF WAR AND
 NATIONAL
 EMERGENCY
 ...AND TO
 VETERANS OF
 ALL WARS
 EVERYWHERE.

PALMA LEONARD J.
 SEVEN V.

ERHARTIC MICHAEL
 ERICKSON BRUCE C
 ERICKSON EARL D.
 ERIKSEN DONALD H.
 ERIKSEN MELVIN O.
 ERIKSEN ROBERT E.
 ESTABROOKS GORDON C.
 EVANESKI FELIX A.
 FALLON EDWARD
 FALLON JOSEPH
 FALLON ROBERT
 FANTOZZI FREDERICK J.
 FANTOZZI JOHN
 FANTOZZI MICHAEL
 FARAM JAMES W.
 FARDY HARRY J.
 FARINHA SIDONIO D.
 FARLEY JOSEPH
 FARRELL ARTHUR T.
 FARRINGTON CHARLES C.
 FARRINGTON CHARLES E.
 FARRINGTON JAMES E.
 FAVREAU RAYMOND
 FAY CARL L.
 FAY JOHN J.
 FERGUSON LAURENCE D.
 FERGUSON PATRICK L.
 FERREIRA JOHN C.
 FIORELLO FREDERICK V.
 FIRTH THOMAS E. II.
 FITCH DONALD R. ST.
 FITZGERALD JOHN J.
 FLAHERTY PATRICK M.
 FLYNN EDWARD D.
 R.